

The apparent decision by Sinclair Broadcasting to require all of their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair, which is allowed to use the public airwaves free of charge, is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Unfortunately, when a few large companies control the airwaves, we can lose our access to objective news coverage. This tends to occur especially when these stations feel it is their right to impose their own bias view points (often with the veil of being objective news) and focus more on the "bottom line." And this poses a serious threat to our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you.